



ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

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DPAP/P

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
(POLICY AND PROCUREMENT), ASA(ALT)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
(ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT), ASN(RDA)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(CONTRACTING), SAF/AQC  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY  
AND SUPPLY DIRECTORATE (DLA)  
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTOR, ARMY CONTRACTING AGENCY

SUBJECT: National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and a perfect time to celebrate the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. Each year the President of the United States asks all Americans to recognize the achievements of workers with disabilities and to help create greater employment opportunities for this underutilized labor pool. The JWOD Program currently employs nearly 42,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and independent lives. It is administered by an independent federal agency, the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, in partnership with two national nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH - Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities. NIB and NISH assist over 600 community-based agencies across the nation in their efforts to employ people with severe disabilities on federal contracts under the JWOD Program.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is an ideal time for DoD employees to renew their interest in supporting the JWOD Program and ensure that JWOD sources are given adequate consideration for satisfying their procurement needs. DoD is a major supporter of the JWOD Program with contractual support to a variety of services and products. Today, Americans with disabilities provide such vital support as grounds maintenance, custodial service, call centers, laundry operations, digital imaging,



and award winning food services at installation dining facilities. The JWOD Program also provides a large variety of products to DoD Agencies including many military unique items such as chemical protective suits, uniforms and first aid kits, as well as a wide range of office supplies. With the ability for prime contractors to receive credit towards small business subcontracting goals by utilizing JWOD resources, it is important that we promote JWOD supplies and services as mutually beneficial actions. For more information about the JWOD supplies or distributors, visit the JWOD Program's Web site at [www.jwod.gov](http://www.jwod.gov) or call Eric Beale of the Committee staff at (703) 603-7743.

On October 20, 2004, DoD (Army, Navy, Air Force) is sponsoring an event at the Pentagon Concourse for JWOD vendors to introduce Pentagon employees to the products and services they provide. We hope to have approximately 30 vendors from both NIB and NISH display sample products, and have available promotional materials to increase awareness of, and appreciation for, the ways in which JWOD vendors support DoD agencies in meeting mission needs and providing base operations support. We encourage Pentagon employees to stop by and visit the displays and become familiar with the goals of the JWOD program.

Your support of the JWOD requirements is extremely important to the Department and vital to this community. Please share this memorandum with all of your acquisition communities. My point of contact is Ms. Susan Schneider at (703) 614-4840 or [susan.schneider@osd.mil](mailto:susan.schneider@osd.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deidre A. Lee".

Deidre A. Lee  
Director, Defense Procurement  
and Acquisition Policy